

Update from the Department of Early Learning June 2010

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

If you heard joyful shouting coming from the Department of Early Learning on May 21, it was because we were celebrating very, very good news: Washington has been awarded a \$17.3 million grant to help design and build a statewide longitudinal education data system.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced Washington's award, which will be funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars through the Institute of Education Sciences at the Department of Education. All 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, applied. Just 20 states were awarded grants.



So what does this mean for early learning in our state? First, it means that we as a state will be able to “follow” students from pre-kindergarten through college so that we know how students are doing and what we can better do to support them throughout their educational experience. The Office of Financial Management's Education Research and Data Center will lead this effort. Second, for DEL, it means \$3.3 million over three years to help us design and build a data system that will align our data across programs (licensing, ECEAP, professional development, QRIS, subsidies, etc.). Right now, we have those program data stored in various systems, which makes meaningful data analysis about our work and investments challenging.

I will share more information about this work when it is available. In the meantime, you can read Gov. Chris Gregoire's press release about this great news for families and children in our state here:

www.governor.wa.gov/news/

—Bette Hyde, Director

Licensing policies, procedures online

DEL has posted the agency policies and procedures our child care licensing team uses when licensing and monitoring child care providers.

We did this to help ensure providers and others have easy access to the policies and procedures that we use to guide our licensing work along with licensing rules and laws. Find the policies and procedures online at:

www.del.wa.gov/laws/licensing/

Also new online this month is www.del.wa.gov/reboot, which outlines our agency's plans to seek input from providers and licensors in continually enhancing our licensing work. (See Director's Note in May 2010 DEL Update). Licensed providers will get a letter about this in the mail soon!

Recently on DEL Connect:

- Gov. Gregoire, DEL help launch “Developing Minds Project” at UW
- Extended eligibility for child care subsidies
- 2010 market rate survey: What is it?
- DEL seeks input on school-age child care rules

Visit our blog at <http://delconnect.blogspot.com/> to read these and other DEL updates, and share your comments.

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Districts eager to participate in kindergarten readiness pilot

More than 50 school districts have applied to be part of the voluntary pilot of the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) for school year 2010-2011.



Applications were due May 27, and school districts selected for the pilot will be announced June 11. Nearly 50 school districts applied, representing about 230 classrooms and 5,200 students. The pilot will include 120 kindergarten classrooms and 3,000 incoming kindergarten students.



Visit www.del.wa.gov/wakids to see the latest on WaKids including:

- a video of a licensed child care provider talking about why WaKIDS matters for early learning professionals, and
- questions and answers about the pilot.

DEL and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with Thrive by Five Washington, are leading this pilot. The 2009 Legislature funded the pilot, which requires a private funding match. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Thrive have awarded the state private matching funds.

Free Early Learning Communications Toolkit ready for use

The state's first Early Learning Communications Toolkit is now available online.



This free toolkit was created for **organizations and community groups** working on behalf of or with children birth through 5 to:

- Help better align the messaging and communications, especially to policymakers, business and community leaders, and school leaders
- Condense national research on effective early learning communications
- Help YOU in your work to support early learning in our state.

Inside the toolkit you'll find five key messages about early learning that we should all strive to incorporate into our work; statistics; communications templates; and links to important state and national resources. Specific messaging for childcare providers and families

about early learning will be added in the near future.

The Toolkit was created by the Early Learning Communications Roundtable, a group of about 20 early learning organizations and key partners in Washington—including DEL—working together to promote public awareness about the importance of early learning. Find it online at: www.earlylearningcommunity.org/page/communications-toolkit

Conferencia en español

La Asociación de Washington para la Educación Infantil (WAEYC) presenta una conferencia para todos aquellos que trabajan con y por los niños y sus familias. Hay un número limitado de becas de \$25 (son financiadas por DEL). 7 horas de clases de STARS.

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

26 de Junio

Yakima

¿Desea registrarse? Visite www.waeyc.org o llame al 253.854.2565 x27 o por correo electrónico a georgina@waeyc.org

DEL seeks public comment on proposed subsidy, ECEAP rule changes

DEL is proposing changes to our state child care subsidy rules. **We want your input!** The proposed rules would allow an extended Working Connections Child Care subsidy eligibility period for families with children enrolled in Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), Head Start or Early Head Start. Read the proposed rules at www.del.wa.gov/laws/development/ and then join us at a public hearing:

BELLINGHAM

Tuesday, June 22—6 p.m.
Bellingham Public Library—Fairhaven Branch Auditorium
1117 12th Street

TACOMA

Wednesday, June 23—6 p.m.
Tacoma Public Library—Main Downtown Branch Auditorium
1102 Tacoma Avenue South

SEATTLE

Thursday, June 24—5:30 p.m.
Seattle Public Library—Beacon Hill Branch
2821 Beacon Avenue South

YAKIMA

Friday, June 25—6 p.m.
DSHS Yakima Valley School—Training room
609 Speyers Road, Selah

SPOKANE

Saturday, June 26—1 p.m.
Spokane Public Library—Shadle Branch
West 2111 Wellesley Ave.



If you cannot attend a public hearing, you can also share your comments on the proposed rules online at www.del.wa.gov/laws/development/, by fax at 360.725.4939 or by writing the DEL Rules Coordinator, PO Box 40970, Olympia, WA 98504-0970. We need to hear from you by Saturday, June 26, 2010.

Second, DEL is revising our rules for ECEAP eligibility to align with House Bill 2731, which redefines “eligible child” criteria to include children who are eligible for special education due to disability under RCW 28A.155.020. Visit www.del.wa.gov/laws/development/eceap.aspx to read more about this. The proposed rules will be available for public input later this month.

Has your community's voice been heard in the draft Early Learning Plan?

You have until June 18 to read the draft plan, take the survey

DEL and partners continue our efforts to make sure the Early Learning Plan reflects the needs of children and families in our entire state. You have until June 18 to read the draft plan—which is the “roadmap” for building a state-wide early learning system in Washington in the years to come—and provide your input.



- Go to www.del.wa.gov/plan to read the draft plan and take a survey to give your input on some key questions.
- You can also host a meeting in your community. E-mail communications@del.wa.gov for a copy of the “Draft ELP Outreach Toolkit,” which includes a PowerPoint presentation, a presenter’s guide, a draft agenda and much more (in English or Spanish).

After June 18, DEL, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Thrive by Five Washington and other partners will begin looking at the feedback and deciding how to incorporate it into the plan. The plan is expected to be adopted by the Early Learning Advisory Council in September, at which time implementation will start (more information coming soon about that!)

Applications now being accepted for 2nd Annual Baby Jamboree

An early learning opportunity for families with infants and toddlers who are blind or visually impaired. In a relaxed and supportive setting, families will learn about their child’s visual impairment and what it means for his/her development and learning. They will leave the weekend feeling like the “experts” on their child’s visual impairment, with a better understanding of their child’s individual needs. (*Families are asked to invite one of their early intervention team members to attend and learn with them.*)

Where: Washington State School for the Blind, Vancouver

When: August 6 to 8, 2010

Caregivers will:

- Meet other families facing similar challenges
- Learn from older children and adults who are blind or visually impaired
- Participate in learning sessions
- Get one-on-one support and information from birth-to-3 specialists in vision impairment

Children who are blind or have low vision will:

- Participate in infant/toddler groups with specialists

And siblings will:

- Have a ton of fun and learn through SibShops for brothers and sisters!

For more information: 1.800-572.7000 or e-mail: wsds@psesd.org

Applications are available for download at: www.wsdonline.org and are due June 10.

“Baby Jamboree” is a collaborative project of Washington Sensory Disabilities Services, Washington State School for the Blind, Department of Services for the Blind, the Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind and the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program. **REMINDER: ITEIP will transfer to DEL on July 1, and will be called Early Support for Infants and Toddlers. Visit www.del.wa.gov/esit on July 1.**